

[27 February, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) The entire production of SPM, Hoshangabad, is consumed by Currency Note Press, Nashik/Bank Note Press, Dewas. The requirement of currency paper is much in excess of the production of SPM, Hoshangabad. The import are meant to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous supply. Hence, the operation of Security Paper Mill, Hoshangabad or the indigenous technology are not effected.

(c) The old and obsolete machines have been replaced from time to time. The Government has decided that no further capital investment is to be made except for maintaining the existing level of production.

Damage to Periyar Dam

*99. SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that unlawful entry of people into Periyar Dam on 15th January, 2001, has affected the structure of the dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what strict measures Government would take to stop entry of unlawful people to the Periyar Dam site?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Government of Kerala has been requested to issue suitable instructions to all concerned to strictly regulate the entry of visitors to the dam site, so as to ensure its safety.

Chinese delegations visit to Surat Diamond Industry

*100. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the frequent visits of Chinese delegation to Surat's diamond industry which polished almost 80 per cent of the World's rough diamonds for alluring the business community to set up their trade in China;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment of the Chinese move; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the implications involved in so far as the country's diamond industry and trade is concerned and the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), an autonomous representative body of trade, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has informed that Chinese delegations have been visiting India and have been having discussions with the office bearers of the GJEPC and their other members having diamond cutting and polishing units for the setting up of diamond cutting and polishing units in China. The interests of Indian diamond industry could be adversely affected if China also becomes a major supplier of the cut and polished diamonds.

The GJEPC has been advised to take effective steps for the further growth of the Indian share in the total world trade in cut and polished diamonds while also ensuring that the predominant market share as has been assiduously carved out by the Indian diamond industry in the world market is not allowed to be adversely affected. Government through the fine tuning of its Exim Policy year after year has been facilitating the exports of this very important sector so as to enable it to maintain India's predominant position in the world market of cut and polished diamonds.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Chartering of Flights for Haj 2001

534. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Air Crafts chartered by Air India for Haj 2001 alongwith the name of their companies;

(b) the terms of contract;